

STATEMENT OF IMMINENT PERIL

Since December 2014, a dangerous new strain of HPAI, also known as “Bird Flu” has been found in domestic poultry, captive falcons and wild, migratory waterfowl. The United States Secretary of Agriculture has mobilized USDA resources to make every effort to contain the disease wherever it may be found but this HPAI is moving rapidly across the country.

The current outbreak of the disease was initially detected in Washington State and since January has spread eastward into 20 additional states. Cases have been reported in Arkansas, California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

HPAI is an extremely infectious and fatal form of the disease affecting all types of birds that, once established, can spread rapidly from flock to flock. HPAI has already been responsible for the loss of 48 million birds in the United States. The threat is credible that the disease could reach New Jersey because New Jersey does not require any avian influenza testing for movement of birds except basic testing of birds going to the live bird markets.

Avian influenza is a viral disease of poultry that can be classified into low pathogenicity (LPAI) and high pathogenicity (HPAI) based on the severity of the illness they cause. HPAI causes severe disease and death loss.

Signs of HPAI may include:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge (runny nose)

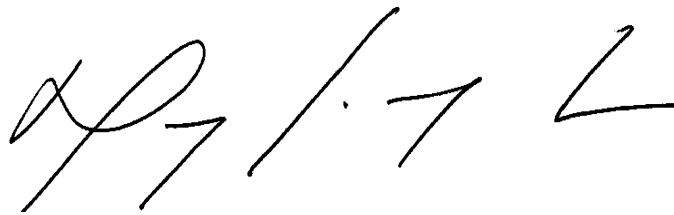
- Watery and/or green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and leg

Wild birds, especially migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese) are passive carriers of the flu virus, meaning they can pass the disease along without becoming seriously ill. Avian Influenza viruses can enter the body by inhalation, ingestion or through other mucous membranes such as the conjunctiva. Feces, saliva and respiratory secretions from infected birds contain large amounts of the virus. Once introduced into a flock, the virus can spread rapidly (within hours).

Avian influenza spreads primarily through direct contact between healthy birds and the bodily discharges of infected birds, such as bird droppings and secretions from the nose, mouth and eyes. In addition, the disease may be spread by mechanical means, such as on vehicles or on the shoes and clothing of people visiting infected premises. The disease is often spread by manure haulers, rendering-truck drivers, feed delivery personnel, poultry farm and egg processing workers, and exhibitors at bird shows. The virus can live for several weeks on bird feathers, manure, and other materials.

Movement of untested poultry poses a great risk of introducing Avian Influenza into the non-infected areas of the country. Ducks and geese can spread the disease as they can be infected and not show symptoms, while other poultry are capable of spreading the virus for a few days before showing clinical signs of the disease. In addition, poultry waste from HPAI states presents a high risk. One gram of contaminated manure can contain enough viruses to infect one

million birds. It has been reported that avian influenza could be recovered until the 30th-35th day in droppings kept at 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. H. Fisher'.

Douglas H. Fisher, Secretary

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

June 26, 2015